```
VZCZCXRO1514
PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEHKUK RUEHROV
DE RUEHLB #1001 2521337
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 091337Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5686
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3596
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4131
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC
```

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 001001

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/08/2014
TAGS: PREL PGOV PARM UNGA UNSC LE
SUBJECT: LEBANON TO VOTE AS NORMAL IN UPCOMING UNGA

REF: STATE 90254

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

SUMMARY

¶1. (C) As requested in reftel, poloff delivered points on the
UN General Assembly (UNGA) to Majdi Ramadan, U.S. desk
officer at the Lebanese MFA. Because government formation is
ongoing, Ramadan predicted that Lebanon would likely not take
any initiatives during the UNGA except competing for a
rotating seat on the Security Council. He also reported that
Lebanon would vote (in descending order of priority)
according to its own precedents, the Arab League's position,
and finally the G-77 position. With regard to specific
issues raised in reftel, Ramadan predicted the following
positions:

- Peacekeeping and Conflict Management: Strong support for UN
peacekeeping missions as a nation hosting such a mission.

- The Middle East: As an Arab League member with a large
population of Palestinians, Lebanon will not support
consolidating resolutions regarding Israel.

- Creating Stability in Afghanistan: Lebanon will support
increasing the budget for the UN Assistance Mission to
Afghanistan, although Ramadan predicted discord within the
G-77, possibly from Egypt or Pakistan, for budget increases
only for "favored" missions.

- Human Rights and Democracy: Ramadan welcomed U.S.
participation in the Human Rights Council and predicted that
Lebanon will vote for country-specific human rights
resolutions regarding the DPRK and Burma and abstain during
no-action motions on them. Lebanon will vote against
resolutions regarding Iran and Sudan and vote for no-action
motions related to those two countries.

- Gender Issues: Lebanon will likely follow the G-77 on
consolidating the four UN bodies dealing with women's issues.

- UN Effectiveness and Reform: Lebanon strongly supports
maintaining the U.S. ceiling for the Scale of Assessments at
22% and hinted at discord within the G-77 on adjusting the
scale, with China blocking all discussion on the subject.
Lebanon supports reaching agreement on the scale and the
budget by consensus.

- Lebanon will strongly support non-proliferation and nuclear
disarmament resolutions.

- Lebanon will support both the Organization of the Islamic
Conference's resolution against religious defamation and the
U.S.-sponsored one on the elimination of religious
intolerance.

- Lebanon will "consider" Egyptian amendments to the
resolution on torture but will likely support the resolution.

BIOGRAPHIC NOTE

¶2. (SBU) Majdi Ramadan has been in the Lebanese foreign
service for just over ten years. He served three years in
Ghana and Liberia before spending seven years in New York at
the Lebanese UN mission as counselor and legal advisor. He
will return to the Lebanese mission to the UN this fall to
assist with UNSC issues. He has a B.A. from the American
University of Beirut, a law degree from the Lebanese
University, and an MBA from Columbia. He speaks English,
Arabic, and French. He is a Shi'a Muslim.
SISON